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DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT
OF
TINTERN ABBEY,
MONMOUTHSHIRE.

A CISTERCIAN MONASTERY,
FOUNDED IN THE YEAR M, C, XXXI.
SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTYTWO YEARS AGO,
SELECTED FROM
GROSE, GILPIN, SHAW, WHEATLEY,
AND OTHER ESTEEMED WRITERS.

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED,
An Account of the Cistercian Order of Monks;
AN HISTORY OF MONASTERIES,
FROM THEIR FOUNDATION IN ENGLAND, TILL THEIR DISSOLUTION
IN THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII.
The Methods used by the Commissioners, appointed by Act of Parliament, to obtain their Surrender;
THE NAMES OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS
WHO HAD THE MANAGEMENT OF A MONASTERY;
WITH THE NATURE OF THEIR OFFICES;
AND OTHER INTERESTING PARTICULARS
RESPECTING THE RELIGIOUS HOUSES;
Being Part of a Design for publishing in like Manner
An Account of the most interesting Places in the County:
With a PREFACE, and some few NOTES,

BY CHARLES HEATH,
PRINTER, MONMOUTH.

SOLD BY HIM IN THE MARKET PLACE, AND AT
ALL THE INNS IN THE COUNTY.
1793.

42/13

OBJECTS

IN THE COURSE OF THE VOYAGE

FROM

Monmouth to Tintern Abbey.

On the right, leaving MONMOUTH, acroſs the meadow, called CHIPPENHAM, TROY-HOUSE, the ſeat of his Grace the Duke of BEAUFORT.

At two miles, REDBROOK Iron and Tin works, belonging to Mr. TANNER.

At five miles, WHITEBROOK, the Paper Mills of Mr. GROVE, of BRISTOL. Nothing can exceed the ſtream for this purpoſe adapted, it partaking of the clearneſs of the ſpring, with the ſoftneſs of rain water.

On the left, on the hill, SAINT BRIAVEL'S Caſtle.

At ſeven miles, BIG'S WEIR, the ſeat of General ROOKE, (a deſcendant of the brave Sir GEORGE ROOKE, who took GIBRALTAR), Member of Parliament for Monmouthſhire.

At ſeven miles, the village of LANDOGO.

Below LANDOGO, CADITHEL WEIR.

At nine miles, BROCK-WEIR; here the goods ſent from MONMOUTH to BRISTOL, and other parts, are ſhipped and conveyed from thence in larger veſſels.

On the right, TINTERN Church.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

PREFACE.

THE Public are generally diſpoſed to receive with Candour the endeavours of thoſe who aim either to *please* or *inform*, when they do not aſſume a confidence to which their works have no pretenſion.

In the publication of the following Sheets, little claim is made to ORIGINALITY. Nothing more is aimed at than to collect the Remarks of ALL the Writers on this admired Ruin, for the information of thoſe Travellers, whoſe curioſity leads them to viſit it.

It is allowed by all who have made obſervations on the Religious Houſes in England, that there is no one ſo perfect remaining as that of *Tintern Abbey*. And it is rather extraordinary, that a building of ſuch beauty, and endowed by ſuch noble and diſtinguiſhed familes, ſhould not meet with more notice in the Monaſticon of Sir William Dugdale and the Notitia of Biſhop Tanner. In each of them it is ſcarcely mentioned; and the accounts at preſent

in

in circulation are owing more to the reſearches of modern writers, than to the pains taken by thoſe who had it in their power to have preſerved its remembrance.

Probably, when perfect and occupied, it was not conſidered as worthy of that attention and public curioſity which it at preſent excites; ſince it is left recorded, "that "many of the Monaſteries were equal to Greenwich or "Chelſea Hoſpitals,"—of courſe this muſt have been but of ſmall note among ſuch ſtately edificies. The remains of Glaſtonbury, in Somerſetſhire, and St. Edmond's Bury, in Suffolk, confirm this opinion.

Mr. WYNDHAM, in his TOUR, remarks, "That tho' the Abbey was founded in 1131, the preſent church was begun ſeveral years *posterior* to the foundation; as it is an elegant ſpecimen of the pure Gothic, conſtructed upon one plan, and in one ſtile. The form of the pilars at the Eaſt end of the nave, which are cut to appear like four round columns cluſtered together, and which had, originally, light intermediate ſhafts, a little detached from their apparent junction, and the turn of the arches, are not unlike thoſe in the cathedral of *Saliſbury*, which was not founded till the year 1217, nor finiſhed till 1256; and at the Weſt end of the nave, the ſhafts are in reality part of the main pillars (tho' they appear detached), and conſequently ſtill remain. All their ſculpture, *which is remarkably ſharp and beautiful*, may be inſpected with the utmoſt facility."

It

It was ſuggeſted by a gentleman who had examined both buildings, that Tintern reſembled the ſculpture of Lichfield cathedral, more than any other he had ſeen. Its carvings, which are the *oak leaves and acorns*, are exactly ſimilar. Dugdale ſays, that Roger de Clinton,—the 33d biſhop of that See, and 4th after the Norman Conqueſt,—who was promoted thereto in the year 1127, advanced the church of Lichfield *in ſtructure and honour*; increaſing the number of prebendaries, &c. ſo that if Tintern was founded in 1131, and Lichfield improved but a few years before, it is not an improbable idea, that the architect which beautified the one, might afterwards build the other.

When the fallen ſtones from the building were removed, and the inſide *laid down* in its preſent form, it was conjectured, that the Spire of the church was compoſed of *wood* only, in the manner of ſome of our preſent churches, as no parts were found that lead to ſhew there was any other than the above mentioned.

But elegant and perfect as is the Abbey, it is not more to be admired than the *peculiarity of its ſituation*. I preſume, few travellers have ſeen it who have not been highly charmed with the grandeur of the woods, which every where ſurround and adorn it,—rendered ſtill more beautiful by the River Wye flowing at their feet. Nothing can be more juſt than the remark of Mr. Shaw, "That "before the introduction of the Iron Works, how paſſing "excellent muſt it have been for monaſtic life and diſ-"cipline!

But

But time having rendered theſe Religious Societies contemptible in the eyes of the rational part of mankind, and ſwept them away from this kingdom, the active hand of commerce has raiſed in the village a large and populous manufactory in its ſtead. A ſituation ſo favourable for Iron works (whoſe eſſentials are *wood* and *water*), with a a navigable river, which communicates with the ſea, running under its walls, could not, in any age, remain unnoticed. Mr. Shaw ſays, "That Iron works have long been in uſe on the banks of the Wye;"----but in this place little buſineſs was tranſacted till occupied by Mr. WHITE, in the year 1756, who reſided here, and made conſiderable improvements. To him ſucceeded his Nephew, Mr. EDWARD JORDEN, who carried them on with induſtry, and ſtill adding to their extent. He lived in great eſteem; keeping an hoſpitable houſe, and inviting the ſtrangers who came to view the Abbey to partake of what his table afforded. Few men ever left the world more beloved or regretted. At his deceaſe, they came into the hands of their preſent occupier,

Mr. TANNER, of MONMOUTH.

What they are under HIS management, aided by the increaſe of commerce within theſe few years, the buſy ſcene which the village now exhibits beſt beſpeaks. I will not wound the feelings of one, who has honoured me with his notice, by ridiculous panegyric.

Before

Before the introduction of this Manufactory, the woods around muſt have been grand indeed; but the works requiring ſuch quantities of charcoal, they are now fallen in the courſe of every 12 or 14 years.

Nothing can be more agreeable in the Summer than the walk from Monmouth to Tintern, by the water ſide:---- its meadows affording, the greateſt part of the way (to uſe a poetical expreſſion) "a carpet of Nature's velvet." The ride, indeed, thro' Treleg, is pleaſant as far as that village, where you leave the turnpike road; afterwards it is extremely uncouth, and only paſſable with ſafety for horſe and foot paſſengers.

Charles Heath.

Speedily will be publiſhed,

DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS OF

PIERCFIELD WALKS,

And CHEPSTOW CASTLE.

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM

GROSE's

ANTIQUITIES *of* ENGLAND *and* WALES,

VOL. III.

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM
"GROSE's ANTIQUITIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES."
VOLUME III.

THIS was a *Cistercian* Abbey, founded A. D. 1131, by Walter de Clare, and dedicated to St. Mary. This Walter was grandson of William the ſon of Osbert, to whom William the Conqueror had given the manors of Wolleſton and Tudenham, and all he could conquer from the Welch. Walter dying without iſſue, was ſucceeded by his brother Gilbert Strongbowe, earl of Pembroke, whoſe grandſon Robert Strongbowe was the conqueror of Leinſter in Ireland. The male line of theſe Strongbowes failing, Maud, the eldeſt of their female heirs, was married to Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk and Suffolk.

A WILLIAM,

WILLIAM, lord marſhal of England, and earl of Pembroke, in the ſeventh year of the reign of king Henry III. confirmed to the monks here all the lands, poſſeſſions, liberties, and immunities formerly granted by his predeceſſors; the particulars of which are to be ſeen in the Monaſticon. Robert Bigod, earl of Norfolk, anno 1301, alſo confirmed to them divers lands at Portcaſſek, Pentirk, Modisgat, &c. His charter is likewiſe printed in the Monaſticon.

About the time of the diſſolution, here were thirteen Religious, when the eſtates were, according to Dugdale, eſtimated at 192l. 1s. 4d. ob. per annum. Speed ſays, the value was 256l. 11s. 6d. The ſite was granted the 28th of Henry VIII. to Henry earl of Worceſter, and is now the property of his grace the duke of Beauford. In 1553 here remained in charge 3l. 6s. 8d. in annuities and corrodies.

William of Worceſter in his Itinerary gives the following obituary of the founders of this monaſtery and their kindred, taken as he ſays, from an ancient calendar. He alſo gives the annexed meaſures and deſcription of the church, part of which is printed

in

in Browne Willis's Hiſtory of Abbies, where by miſtake he has tranſlated the word virga, *rod*, inſtead of yard.

Earl Gilbert died - -	6th January.
Earl Robert - - - -	8th February.
Iſabella counteſs of Pembroke -	9th March.
Richard I. King of England -	27th March.
Matilda Counteſs Warren -	27th March.
Walter, founder of the church of St. Mary of Tynterne - -	10th March.
Richard Earl Mareſchal - -	15th April.
Earl Richard - - -	20th April.
The Counteſs Sibilla, mother of William earl of Pembroke -	3d June.
Galfredus Mareſchal earl of Pembroke	27th June.
Margaret counteſs of Blaſois -	12th July.
Ralph Bloeth, junior - -	13th July.
Joen, King of France - -	14th July.
Louis, King of France - -	6th November.
Elizabeth Counteſs V. -	19th November.
Blanch, queen of France -	28th November.
Margaret, Counteſs of Flanders	4th December.
Berenger, and the counteſs his ſiſter, - - -	23d December.
Anſelmas Mareſchal - -	24th December.

Matilda de Clare, Counteſs of
Glouceſter and Hereford - 19th December.

Roger Bygod, earl mareſchal, who built the church of Tynterne, died the 7th day of December, on the letter E. as in the calendar of the Religious of Tynterne.

Thomas de Brotherton, mareſchal of England, died 24th of Auguſt.

Memorandum, that in the 30th of Edward I. of England, that is in the year of Chriſt,---Roger Bygot, earl of Norfolk, gave to the church of Tynterne, the lordſhip of Eccle and the church of St. Edward of Halbergate with all its appurtenances.

DIMENSIONS OF THE CHURCH.

The length of the church of ST. MARY of TYNTERNE contains ſeventy-five yards.

Breadth of the body of the church thirteen yards and a half.

Breadth of the north aiſle ſix yards.

Breadth of the ſouth aiſle ſix yards.

There are in the ſaid church on the ſouth ſide ten arches, between each column five yards, the ſpan of each of the ſaid ten arches,

There

There are alſo in the lower part of the ſaid hurch, on the ſouth ſide, ten windows of great ength: alſo in the overhiſtorie (i. e. upper ſtory) re ten windows of like workmanſhip: and ten principal windows in the north part of the church, nd every window contains two great glazed pannels.

Alſo, in the overhiſtorye are likewiſe ten principal windows, and every window contains two pannels, each glazed according to its proportion, although not according to the quantity of the windows of the whole church of Weſtminſter, near London.

The breadth of the eaſt window before the great altar, contains eight glazed pannels with the arms of the founder, Roger Bygot.

And in the eaſt part of the two eaſt aiſles, in their two windows, each window conſiſts of three glazed pannels without arms.

Alſo the length of the choir conſiſts of four arches, beſides the ſquare area of the chief bell tower, in the middle of the choir, which contains----yards.

So that the whole length of the choir, with the area of the bell tower contains------yards.

Item,

Item, the height of the vault of the whole church from its area contains eleven engliſh vetheyms, (fathoms) and every fathom conſiſts of------feet or ------yards.

The length of the croſs iſle, that is the arms of the church both north and ſouth taken together, contains fifty yards, that is one hundred and fifty feet.

Item, the ſquare ſpace or area of the bell tower, ſituated in the middle of the choir, contains in length twelve yards.

Item, the ſaid ſquare of the bell tower, contains in breadth twelve yards.

Item, the principal ſouth and north glaſs windows, contain ſix glazed pannels of great height.

Memorandum, the cloiſter is thirty-ſeven yards in length, and in breadth thirty-three yards.

Item, the whole church contains fourteen arches in one part, and fourteen in the other part.

Item, the principal north window fourteen glazed pannels,

Item, the breadth of the ſaid windows, as well on the north as the oppoſite window on the ſouth, contains three yards.

Item,

Item, the fermarye (infirmary,) contains ſixty my ſteps, which are thirty-four yards, and in eadth eight yards.

Item, the chapter houſe contains in length eighteen yards, in breadth nine yards.

Memorandum, that twenty-four of my ſteps or paces make twelve yards.

Alſo, fifty yards make eighty-five of my paces or ſteps.

From the above account, if the author of it has not miſreckoned, it ſeems evident that the great eaſt window has been altered ſince he wrote the deſcription, though perhaps he may have been as inaccurate in that article, as in the eſtimation of his ſteppys, when he ſays twenty-four of them make twelve yards, and fifty yards make only eighty-five of his paces or ſteps. His deſcription nevertheleſs ſerves to give ſome idea of the proportions of the different buildings, of which we have no other information.

Mr.

Mr. GROSE here obſerves, That in a former Plate of this Monaſtery, which accompanied his work, it was ſaid, *Nothing but the Church remained*. A ſecond viſit to that ruin has convinced the Author, *this aſſertion was too general*. The ſmall gate leading from the water, there ſhewn, ſeems to have belonged to the abbey; and at a little diſtance South-Weſt, are ſeveral cottages, evidently once part of its out-offices, though ſo diſguiſed and patched, as to eſcape a curſory obſerver. Adjoining thereto is alſo a conſiderable length of its ancient wall.

The inſide of this monaſtery affords a fine ſpecimen of that ſtile of architecture called Gothic; its rich weſt window, ſtill quite entire, is much admired, though perhaps ſomewhat defective in point of proportion, being rather to broad for its height. The ſmall door beneath is extremely poor; the intent of the architect is manifeſt; he meant by its contraſt with the loftineſs of the roof to ſtrike the beholders.

The fragments of its once ſculptured roof, and other remains of its fallen decorations, are piled up with more regularity than taſte on each ſide the grand aiſle: they are worthy obſervation; ſeveral

of them, both for invention and execution, would do honour to the beſt artiſt of the preſent age. There are alſo ſome mutilated figures, formerly belonging to monuments, other or ſepulchral decorations; particularly the head of a monk; and the figure of a knight armed in coat of mail, his ſhield on his left arm, is ſaid to repreſent one of the Strongbowes, earl of Pembroke. It is broken off juſt above the knees; the legs are wanting. The right-hand, which is ſhewn, has five fingers and a thumb. Whether this was a natural peculiarity of the perſon repreſented, or the miſtake of the artiſt, is uncertain.

On the whole, though this monaſtery is undoubtedly light and elegant, it wants that gloomy ſolemnity ſo eſſential to religious ruins; thoſe yawning vaults and dreary receſſes which ſtrike the beholder with a religious awe, and make him almoſt ſhudder at entering them, calling into his mind all the tales of the nurſery.

Here, at one caſt of the eye, the whole is comprehended, nothing being left for the ſpectator to gueſs or explore; and this defect is increaſed by the ill-placed neatneſs of the poor people who ſhew

the building; by whoſe abſurd labour the ground is covered over with a turf as even and trim as that of a bowling-green, which gives the building more the air of an artificial ruin in a garden, than that of an ancient decayed abbey. How unlike the beautiful deſcription of the poet!

Half buried there lie many a broken buſt,
And obeliſk and urn o'erthrown by time;
And many a Cherub here deſcends in duſt
From the rent roof and portico ſublime.
Where rev'rend ſhrines in Gothic grandeur ſtood,
The nettle, or the noxious night ſhade ſpreads
And aſhlings, wafted from the neighb'ring wood,
Thro' the worn turrets wave their trembling heads.

Elegy, "On a Pile of Ruins," by J. Cunningham.

[THUS FAR Mr. GROSE.]

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM

GILPIN's

Observations on the River Wye,

AND THE

Picturesque Beauty of South Wales.

[A WORK OF UNCOMMON MERIT.]

The following Observations appeared in a Monthly Review of considerable merit, on the publication of this Work. The PRINTER *of these Sheets joining with the* WRITER *in paying a Tribute of Respect to such cultivated Talents, which have afforded him, among many others, such infinite pleasure, thinks it will not be displeasing to the* READER *to introduce them here.*

IT is one of the moſt uſeful offices of art, to aſſiſt us in diſcerning the beauties of nature. The untaught, vulgar eye, ſees, indeed, the great outline of objects, and often with a ſtrong ſenſe of what is grand and beautiful: but they who are accuſtomed to examine the productions of nature and art with cloſe attention, who are furniſhed with juſt principles of taſte, and exerciſed in the uſe and application of the laws of criticiſm, have a minute and accurate perception of the ſeveral parts, and of the manner in which they are combined to produce the general effect. A painter habituated to view the ſcenes of nature as connected with the principles of his art, will find innumerable

rable beauties in a landſcape, which elude the notice of the uninſtructed traveller.

It was with theſe peculiar advantages for obſervation, that the Author of this work undertook his tour; and he has great merit in having employed his cultivated judgment and taste, in a manner which may point out to future travellers new ſcources of elegant entertainment. His object is, to examine the face of nature by the rules of pictureſque beauty; to adapt the deſcription of natural ſcenery to the principles of artificial landſcape; and to open the ſcources of thoſe pleaſures which are derived from the compariſon. This deſign is here executed with the hand of a maste The diverſified ſcenes of nature are deſcribed wit a vigour of fancy and pertinent variety of language which enable the reader eaſily to conceive ever picture his guide preſents before him. At the ſam time that the Author keeps clear of the cant criticiſm, he makes a free uſe of the terms of art and on ſome occaſions riſes to a boldneſs of deſcription truly poetical. There is a degree of propriet and originality in many of his remarks, which en titles them to particular attention.

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM

"GILPIN's OBSERVATIONS ON THE RIVER WYE."

SECTION IV.

AS we left MONMOUTH, the banks, on the left, were, at firſt, low; but on both ſides they ſoon grew ſteep, and woody; varying their ſhapes, as they had done the day before. The moſt beautiful of theſe ſcenes is in the neigbourhood of St. Breval's caſtle; where the vaſt, woody declivities, on each hand, are uncommonly magnificent. The caſtle is at too great a diſtance to make any object in the view.

The weather was now ſerene: the ſun ſhone; and we ſaw enough of the effect of light, in the exhibitions of this day, to regret the want of it the day before.

During

During the whole courſe of our voyage from Roſs, we had ſcarce ſeen one corn-field. The banks of the Wye conſiſt, almoſt entirely either of wood or paſturage; which I mention as a circumſtance of peculiar value in landſcape. Furrowed-lands, and waving-corn, however charming in paſtoral poetry, are ill accommodated to painting. The painter never deſires the hand of art to touch his grounds.—But if art *muſt* ſtray among them—if it *muſt* mark out the limits of property, and turn them to the uſes of agriculture; he wiſhes, that theſe limits may, as much as poſſible, be concealed; and that the lands they circumſcribe, may approach, as nearly as may be to nature—that is that they may be paſturage. Paſturage not only preſents an agreeable ſurface: but the cattle which graze it, add great variety, and animation to the ſcene.

The meadows, below Monmouth, which ran ſhelving from the hills to the water-ſide, were particularly beautiful, and well-inhabited. Flocks of ſheep were every where hanging on their green ſteeps; and herds of cattle occupying the lower grounds. We often ſailed paſt groups of them lavin

laving their ſides in the water: or retiring from the heat under ſheltered banks.

In this part of the river alſo, which now begins to widen, we were often entertained with light veſſels gliding past us. Their white ſails paſſing along the ſides of woodland hills were very picturesque.

In many places alſo the views were varied by the proſpect of bays, and harbours in miniature; where little barks lay moored, taking in ore, and other commodities from the mountains. Theſe, deſigned plainly for rougher water, than preſent encountered, ſhewed us, without topographical knowledge, that we approached

Monmouth we reached, by a late breakfaſt noble ruin of Tintern Abbey; which the Duke of Beaufort; and is eſteemed, with its appendages, the moſt beautiful and picturesque view on the river.

Caſtles and abbeys have different ſituations, agreeable to their reſpective uſes. The caſtle, meant for defence, ſtands boldly on the hill; the abbey,

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intended for meditation, is hid in the ſequeſtere
vale.

Such is the ſituation of Tintern Abbey. It occu
pies a gentle eminence in the middle of a circula
valley, beautifully ſcreened on all ſides by wood
hills; through which the river winds its cou
and the hills, cloſing on its entrance, and
exit, leave no room for inclement blaſts to
A more pleaſing retreat could not eaſily
The woods, and glades intermixed; the
the river; the variety of the ground; t
main, contraſted with the objects of n
the elegant line formed by the ſummits
which include the whole; make all tog
inchanting piece of ſcenery. Every thing
breathes an air ſo calm, and tranquil; ſo ſequeſtere
from the commerce of life; that it is eaſy to con
ceive, a man of warm imagination, in monki
times, might have been allured by ſuch a ſcene
become an inhabitant of it.

No part of the ruins of Tintern is ſeen from th
river, except the abbey-church. It has been a
elegant Gothic pile; but it does not make that ap
pearance as a *diſtant* object, which we expect
Though the parts are beautiful, the whole is ill
ſhaped

ped. No ruins of the tower are left, which
ht give form, and contraſt to the buttreſſes,
walls. Inſtead of this, a number of gabel-
s hurt the eye with their regularity; and dis-
it by the vulgarity of their ſhape. A mallet
ously uſed (*but who durſt uſe it?*) might be
rvice in fracturing ſome of them; particularly
ſe of the croſs iſles, which are not only diſa-
eable in themſelves, but confound the per-
ctive.

But were the building ever ſo beautiful, encom-
aſſed as it is with ſhabby houſes, it could make no
ppearance from the river. From a ſtand near the
oad it is ſeen to more advantage.

But if Tintern Abbey be leſs ſtriking as a *diſtant*
bject, it exhibits, on a *nearer* view (when the
hole together cannot be ſeen, but the eye ſettles
n ſome of its nobler parts), a very inchanting piece
f ruin. Nature has now made it her own. Time
as worn off all traces of the rule: it has blunted
ſharp edges of the chiſel; and broken the re-
rity of oppoſing parts. The figured ornaments
aſt window are gone; thoſe of the weſt win-
left. Moſt of the other windows, with
ncipal ornaments, remain.

To theſe are ſuperadded the ornaments of tim
Ivy, in maſſes uncommonly large, has taken poſſe
ſion of many parts of the wall; and gives a happ
contraſt to the grey-coloured ſtone, of which th
building is compoſed. Nor is this undecorate
Moſſes of various hues, with lychens, maiden-hai
penny-leaf, and other humble plants, overſprea
the ſurface; or hang from every joint and crevic
Some of them were in flower, others only in leaf
but, all together, they give thoſe full blown tint
which add the richeſt finiſhing to a ruin.

Such is the beautiful appearance, which Tinte
Abbey exhibits on the *outſide*, in thoſe parts whe
we can obtain a near view of it. But when
enter it, we ſee it in moſt perfection; at leaſt, if
conſider it as an independent object, unconnect
with landſcape. The roof is gone: but the wal
and pillars, and abutments, which ſupported
are entire. A few of the pillars indeed have giv
way; and here, and there, a piece of the facing
the wall; but in correſponding parts, one alwa
remains to tell the ſtory. The pavement is oblite
ated: the elevation of the choir is no longer viſibl
the whole area is reduced to one level; cleared
rubbiſh; and covered with neat turf, cloſely ſhor

and interrupted with nothing but the noble columns, which formed the iſles, and ſupported the tower.

When we ſtood at one end of this awful piece of ruin; and ſurveyed the whole in one view---the elements of air and earth, its only covering and pavement; and the grand and venerable remains, which terminated both--- perfect enough to form the perſpective; yet broken enough to deſtroy the regularity; the eye was above meaſure delighted with the beauty, the greatneſs, and the novelty of the ſcene. More *pictureſque* it certainly would have been, if the area, unadorned, had been left with all its rough fragments of ruin ſcattered round; and bold was the hand that removed them: yet as the outſide of the ruin, which is the chief object of *pictureſque curioſity*, is ſtill left in all its wild and native rudeneſs; we excuſe---perhaps we approve the neatneſs, that is introduced within. It *may* add to the *beauty* of the ſcene---to its *novelty* it undoubtedly *does*.

Among other things in this ſcene of deſolation, the poverty and wretchedneſs of the inhabitants are remarkable. They occupy little huts, raiſed among the ruins of the monaſtery; and ſeem to have no

employ-

employment, but begging: as if a place once devoted to indolence, could never again become the ſeat of induſtry. As we left the Abbey, we found the whole hamlet at the gate, either openly ſoliciting alms; or covertly, under the pretence of carrying us to ſome part of the ruins, which each could ſhew; and which was far ſuperior to any thing which could be ſhewn by any one elſe. The moſt lucrative occaſion could not have excited more jealouſy and contention.

One poor old woman we followed, who had engaged to ſhew us the monk's library. She could ſcarce crawl; ſhuffling along her palſied limbs, and meagre, contracted body, by the help of two ſticks. She led us, through an old gate, into a place over ſpread with nettles and briars; and pointing to the remnant of a ſhattered cloiſter, told us, that was the place. It was her own manſion. All indeed ſhe meant to tell us, was the ſtory of her own wretchedneſs; and all ſhe had to ſhew us, was her own miſerable habitation. We did not expect to be intereſted: but we found we were. I never ſaw ſo loathſome a human dwelling. It was a cavity, loftily vaulted, between two ruined walls; which ſtreamed with various coloured ſtains of unwholeſome dews.

The

he floor was earth; yielding, through moiſture,
the tread. Not the mereſt utenſil, or furniture
f any kind, appeared, but a wretched bedſtead,
read with a few rags, and drawn into the middle
f the cell, to prevent its receiving the damp, which
rickled down the walls. At one end was an aper-
ure; which ſerved juſt to let in light enough to
iſcover the wretchedneſs within.---When we ſtood
the midſt of this cell of miſery, and felt the chil-
ng damps, which ſtruck us in every direction, we
ere rather ſurpriſed, that the wretched inhabitant
as ſtill alive; than that ſhe had only lost the uſe
f her limbs.

The country about Tintern Abbey hath been
eſcribed as a ſolitary, tranquil ſcene: but its im-
ediate environs only are meant. Within half a
ile of it are carried on great iron-works; which
troduce noiſe and buſtle into theſe regions of
anquillity.

The

The ground, about theſe works, appears from the river to conſiſt of grand woody hills, ſweeping and interſecting each other, in elegant lines. They are a continuation of the ſame kind of landſcape as that about Tintern Abbey; and are fully equal to it.

As we ſtill deſcend the river, the ſame ſcenery continues. The banks are equally ſteep, winding and woody; and in ſome parts diverſified by prominent rocks, and ground finely broken, and adorned.

Hitherto the river had been clear, and ſplendid reflecting the ſeveral objects on its banks. But its waters now became ouzy, and diſcoloured. Sludgy ſhores too appeared, on each ſide, and other ſymptoms, which diſcovered the influence of a tide.

[THUS FAR Mr. GILPIN.]

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM

SHAW's TOUR

TO THE WEST OF ENGLAND,

IN THE SUMMER OF M, DCC, LXXXVIII.

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM
"SHAW's TOUR TO THE WEST OF ENGLAND."
PAGE 201.

IN order to vary the ſcenes as much as poſſible, we diſmiſſed our boat at *Monmouth*, and went by land to TINTERN ABBEY. As the upper part of the river Wye affords moſt variety in a boat, this plan was undoubtedly the beſt.

As we proceeded on the road to Chepſtow, and paſſed Troy Houſe, a fine old ſeat of the Duke of Beaufort, the autumnal glow of nature, attendant on nocturnal ſhowers, gave us the higheſt idea of the town's charming ſituation and ſcenery, protected on all ſides by hills of the ſweeteſt verdure, even to their utmoſt ſummits; the ſtreams of VAGA murmuring at their feet.

As we aſcended the hill before us, each progreſſive ſtep afforded an infinite variety of waving mountains, vallies, and woods, interſperſed with white cots, ſeats, &c. &c. and backed by the majeſtic heads of *Sugarloaf* and Brecknockſhire black mountains. The aſpect from hence became dreary and unpleaſant, and the fervency of the noontide ſun was now almoſt as intenſe as Midſummer, without a ſhade to guard us from its powers.

We now left the great road at the village of Treleg, and paſſed through hollow and uncouth tracks, ſeldom attempted by any carriage but thoſe of the natives. After a few ſpecimens of pleaſing recluſe ſcenery, we enter a profound dell for ſeveral miles; a gurgling brook winding thro' the umbrageous cavity which ſupplies a number of large iron works above the village of Abbey-Tintern: *Mr. Tanner* is the oſtenſible manager; the Duke of *Beaufort* the great proprietor. We inſpected the principal furnace, and ſaw the ore, which is moſtly brought from that vaſt ſource at Furneſs, in Lancaſhire, diſſolved by the blaſts of immenſe bellows, worked upon the modern conſtruction of cylinder pumps. They have a method of ſeparating the beſt qualities from the droſs, by a water

a water wheel and hammers, from which they col-lect conſiderable quantities of pure metal, and the powder ſells to the glaſs houſes for their uſe. Lower down are various forges, for the purpoſe of ſtriking this mutilated ore, into every requiſite ſize and form of the broadest bars to the finest wires.

We now approached the venerable object of our deviation, TINTERN ABBEY, hid in a moſt ſe-queſtered ſpot by the river Wye. Before theſe populous manufactures were here thought of, how paſſing excellent muſt this ſituation have been for monaſtic life and diſcipline! The ruins of *Furneſs* (Lancaſhire) muſt yield to Tintern, both in point of pictureſque beauty, preſervation, and curioſity. We might gaze with freſh delight and admiration for hours on this perfect ſkeleton of Gothic archi-tecture. The internal dimenſions from east to weſt are 77 yards; from north to ſouth, 53. The eaſt, weſt, north, and ſouth windows, and centre arches, are of an equal height 67 feet; the weſt window itſelf is 60.

The

The following is the account given of its origin, an which is ſhewn by Mr. GETHEN *to the viſitors, fo their information.*

" This Abbey, dedicated to God, and the virgi
" Mary, was founded about the year 1131, b
" Walter Fitz-Richard de Clare, Lord of Caer
" went and Monmouthſhire. Richard de Clare
" ſurnamed Strongbow (nephew to the founder
" gave divers lands and privileges to the abbot an
" monks hereof, who were of the Ciſtercian order
" obliging them to pray for their ſouls, and thoſ
" of his and his wife's anceſtors. Roger de Bigo
" earl of Norfolk, added to theſe benefactions
" It has been famous for the tombs and monu
" ments of ſeveral great perſons, principally o
" the aforeſaid Walter de Clare; Gilbert Earl o
" Pembroke, brother to the founder; Walte
" Earl of Pembroke, and Marſhal of England
" and his brother Anſelm, laſt Earl of that fami
" ly; William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, wh
" being in the diſputes between the Houſes o
" York and Lancaſter, was taken priſoner i
" Banbury fight, and being beheaded, lies buried
" here."

Beſide

Beſides the effigy of Gilbert de Clare, which is
n good preſervation, and ſome others, the key
ones of many arches are ſeen in a perfect ſtate of
ne ſculpture. The Duke of Beaufort takes great
elight in having the whole of this magnificent
lick preſerved, which before was in a ſtate of
ouldering obſcurity. At its ſuppreſſion the
evenues were rated at £ 192 1s 4d per annum.

The following LINES, *from*

MASON's ENGLISH GARDEN,

BOOK THE FIRST,

re a fine poetic picture, applicable to the ſcenes we have been describing.

In thy fair domain" (ſays the Author, addreſſing
e Genius of his Country),

" Many a glade is found,
" The haunt of wood-gods only; where if art
" Ere dar'd to tread, 'twas with unſandal'd foot,
" Printleſs, as if the place were holy ground.
" And there are ſcenes, where, tho' ſhe whilom trod,
" Led by the worſt of guides, fell tyranny,
" And ruthleſs ſuperſtition, we now trace
" Her footſteps with delight; and pleas'd revere

What

" What once we ſhould have hated. But to time,
" Not her, the praiſe is due; his gradual touch
" Has moulder'd into beauty many a tow'r,
" Which, when it frown'd with all its battlements,
" Was only terrible; and many a fane
" Monaſtic, which, when deck'd with all its ſpires,
" Serv'd but to feed ſome pamper'd Abbot's pride,
" And awe the unletter'd vulgar. Generous youth
" Whoe'er thou art, that liſten'ſt to my lay,
" And feel'ſt thy ſoul aſſent to what I ſing,
" Happy art thou, if thou canſt call thine own,
" Such ſcenes as theſe, where nature, and where time
" Have work'd congenial; where a ſcattered hoſt
" Of antique oaks darken thy ſide long hills;
" While ruſhing thro' their branches, rifted cliffs
" Dart their white heads, and glitter thro' the gloom;
" More happy ſtill, if one ſuperior rock
" Bear on its brow the ſhiver'd fragment huge
" Of ſome old Norman fortreſs; happier far,
" Ah, then moſt happy, if thy vale below,
" Waſh, with the chryſtal coolneſs of its rills,
" Some mould'ring Abbey's ivy-veſted walls."

[THUS FAR Mr. SHAW.]

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM

WHEATLEY's

"*Observations on Modern Gardening.*"

CHAPTER XLIII.

INTRODUCTION.

IN collecting the remarks of different writers on TINTERN ABBEY, it would have been unpardonable to have omitted thoſe of the elegant author of *Obſervations on Modern Gardening*; for tho' the chapter which he employs relates more to the effect which Ruins produce, when introduced with judgment in Pleaſure Grounds, than as intended to give an enlarged account of the above mentioned place, I truſt the admirers of pictureſque beauty will not deem its inſertion here irrevalent to this work. Nor is it detracting from the merits of Mr. GILPIN, to ſay, that he has availed himſelf of many of Mr. Wheatley's remarks, in that part of his work which treats on the ſcenery of the River WYE.

INTRODUCTION.

It is a pleaſure of the higheſt kind to men of liberal minds, to bring forward to public notice the writings of authors of genius and ſcience; and though the abilities of Mr. Wheatley are too well known, to need the feeble aid of this ſelection to extend their fame, yet, from the book being out of print, and of courſe ſcarce, there may be many perſons into whoſe hands it may not have fallen, who will reap much amuſement from the peruſal.

Thoſe whom curioſity excites, and leiſure enables, to view the diſtinguiſhed reſidences of families in this kingdom, and who have judgment to diſcern the beauties of landſcape, will find Mr. Wheatley, not only a very agreeable, but alſo very inſtructive companion.

Charles Heath.

TINTER

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM

"OBSERVATIONS ON MODERN GARDENING."

PAGE 130.

TO the great variety of buildings may added the many changes which may be made by the means of RUINS; they are a claſs by themſelves, beautiful as objects, expreſſive as characters, and peculiarly calculated to connect with their appendages into elegant groupes: they may be accommodated with eaſe to irregularity of ground, and their diſorder is improved by it; they may be intimately blended with trees and with thickets, and the interruption is an advantage; for imperfection and obſcurity are their properties; and to carry the imagination to something greater than is seen, their effect. They may for any of theſe purpoſes be

ſeparated

ſeparated into detached pieces; contiguity is not neceſſary, nor even the appearance of it, if the relation be preſerved; but ſtraggling ruins have a bad effect, when the ſeveral parts are equally conſiderable. There ſhould be one large maſs to raiſe an idea of greatneſs, to attract the others about it, and to be a common centre of union to all: the ſmaller pieces then mark the original dimenſions of one extenſive ſtructure; and no longer appear to be the remains of ſeveral little buildings.

All remains excite an enquiry into the former ſtate of the edifice, and fix the mind in a contemplation on the uſe it was applied to; beſides the characters expreſſed by their ſtyle and poſition, they ſuggeſt ideas which would not ariſe from the buildings, if entire. The purpoſes of many have ceaſed; an abbey, or a caſtle, if complete, can now be no more than a dwelling; the memory of the times, and of the manners, to which they were adapted, is preſerved only in hiſtory, and in ruins; and certain ſenſations of regret, of veneration, or compaſſion, attend the recollection: nor are theſe confined to the remains of buildings which are now in diſuſe; thoſe of an old manſion raiſe reflections on the domeſtic comforts once enjoyed

and

and the ancient hoſpitality which reigned there. Whatever building we ſee in decay, we naturally contraſt its preſent to its former ſtate, and delight to ruminate on the compariſon. It is true that ſuch effects properly belong to real ruins; but they are produced in a certain degree by thoſe which are fictitious; the impreſſions are not ſo ſtrong, but they are exactly ſimilar; and the repreſentation, though it does not preſent facts to the memory, yet ſuggeſts ſubjects to the imagination: but in order to affect the fancy, the ſuppoſed original deſign ſhould be clear, the uſe obvious, and the form eaſy to trace; no fragments ſhould be hazarded without a preciſe meaning, and an evident connection; none ſhould be perplexed in their conſtruction, or uncertain as to their application. Conjectures about the form, raiſe doubts about the exiſtence of the ancient ſtructure; the mind muſt not be allowed to heſitate; it muſt be hurried away from examining into the reality, by the exactneſs and the force of the reſemblance.

IN the ruins of TINTERN ABBEY, the original conſtruction of the church is perfectly marked; and it is principally from this circumſtance that they are celebrated as a ſubject of curioſity and contemplation. The walls are almost entire; the roof only is fallen in; but most of the columns which divided the aiſles are ſtill ſtanding; of thoſe which have dropped down, the baſes remain, every one exactly in its place; and in the middle of the nave, four lofty arches, which once ſupported the ſteeple, riſe high in the air above all the reſt, each reduced now to a narrow rim of ſtone, but completely preſerving its form. The ſhapes even of the windows are little altered; but ſome of them are quite obſcured, others partially ſhaded, by tufts of ivy, and thoſe which are moſt clear, are edged with its ſlender tindrils, and lighter foliage, wreathing about the ſides and the diviſions; it winds round the pillars; it clings to the walls; and in one of the aiſles, cluſters at the top in bunches ſo thich and ſo large, as to darken the ſpace below. The other aiſles, and the great nave, are expoſed to the ſky; the floor is entirely overſpread with turf; and to keep it clear from weeds and buſhes, is now its higheſt preſervation. Monkiſh tomb-ſtones,

and

and the monuments of benefactors long ſince for-
gotten, appear above the greenſwerd; the baſes of
the pillars which have fallen, riſe out of it; and
maimed effigies, and ſculpture worn with age
and weather, Gothic capitals, carved cornices,
and various fragments, are ſcattered about, or lie
in heaps piled up together. Other ſhattered
pieces, though disjointed and mouldering, ſtill
occupy their original places; and a stair-caſe
much impaired, which led to a tower now no
more, is ſuſpended at a great heighth, uncovered
and inacceſſible. Nothing is perfect; but memo-
rials of every part ſtill ſubſiſt; all certain, but all in
decay; and ſuggeſting, at once, every idea which
can occur in a ſeat of devotion, ſolitude, and
deſolation.

Upon ſuch models, fictitious ruins ſhould be
formed; and if any parts are entirely loſt, they
ſhould be ſuch as the imagination can eaſily
ſupply from thoſe which are ſtill remaining. Dis-
tinct traces of the building which is ſuppoſed to
have exiſted, are leſs liable to the ſuſpicion of

artifice, than an unmeaning heap of confuſion. Preciſion is always ſatisfactory; but in the reality it is only agreeable; in the copy, it is eſſential to the imitation.

A material circumſtance to the truth of the imitation, is, that the ruin appear to be very old; the idea is beſides intereſting in itſelf; a monument of antiquity is never ſeen with indifference; and a ſemblance of age may be given to the repreſentation, by the hue of the materials; the growth of ivy, and other plants; and cracks and fragments ſeemingly occaſioned rather by decay, than deſtruction. An appendage evidently more modern than the principal ſtructure, will ſometimes corroborate the effect; the ſhed of a cottager amidſt the remains of a temple, is a contraſt both to the former and the preſent ſtate of the building; and a tree flouriſhing among ruins, ſhews the length of time they have lain neglected. No circumſtance ſo forcibly marks the deſolation of a ſpot once inhabited, as the prevalence of nature over it:

Campos ubi Troja fuit

is a ſentence which conveys a ſtronger idea of a city totally overthrown, than a deſcription of its remains; but in a repreſentation to the eye, ſome

remains

remains must appear; and then the perverſion of them to an ordinary uſe, or an intermixture of a vigorous vegetation, intimates a ſettled deſpair of their reſtoration.

[THUS FAR Mr. WHEATLEY.]

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[THUS FAR Mr. WHEATLEY.]

POETICAL DESCRIPTION

OF

TINTERN ABBEY.

EXTRACTED FROM

"*A Guide to Chepstow and Tintern Abbey, by Water.*"

POETICAL DESCRIPTION
OF
TINTERN ABBEY.

ABOVE LANCOT, in a ſequeſter'd dell,
Where Monks in former days were wont to dwell,
Inclos'd with woods and hills on every ſide,
Stands *Tintern Abbey*, ſpoil'd of all her pride;
Whoſe mournful ruins fill the ſoul with awe,
Where once was taught God's holy ſaving law;
Where mitred abbots fann'd the heavenly fire,
And ſhook, with hymns divine, the heavenly choir.
Though now her fallen roof admits the day,
She claims our veneration in decay:
Looks like a godly matron drown'd in tears,
By friends forſaken and broke down with years.
Her fine old windows, arches, walls, unite
To fill the mind with pity and delight;

For

For from her ſplendid ruins may be ſeen
How beautiful this deſecrated place has been.
Round the old walls obſerve the ivy twine,
A plant attach'd to grandeur in decline.
The tott'ring pile ſhe claſps in her embrace,
With a green maſk conceals its furrow'd face,
And keeps it standing on its time-worn baſe.
Learn hence, Oh! man, to act the ivy's part,
Fix deep the bright examplar in thy heart;
To friendſhip's ſacred call with joy attend,
Cling, like the ivy, round a falling friend;
Who, when ſhe can no longer prop the wall,
Hugs her old friend and both together fall.
Here on the ground her ſcatter'd reliques lie,
And half great *Strongbow*'s image wounds the eye.
But on the hand, still left unbroken, we
Five fingers and *a thumb* distinctly ſee;
Whether, or not, the ſculptor here mistook,
We learn from no old chronicle or book;
But if he's right we may from hence ſuppoſe,
His GIANT FIST *fell heavy on his foes.*
Who can refrain from tears that views his buſt,
Thus mutilated, mould'ring in the duſt?
To think that arm is nerveleſs now and dead,
From which the great *O'Conner* vanquiſh'd fled;

From

From which united *Iriſh* monarchs ran,
For none durſt face this gallant *Engliſhman!*
A ſight like this muſt kings and heroes ſcare,
And fill their mortal boſoms with deſpair,
To think how ſoon themſelves muſt die and rot,
How ſoon their boaſted honours be forgot;
How ſoon the prieſt o'er their dead bodies muſt
Pronounce that ſolemn ſentence,—*duſt to duſt.*
Here pauſe awhile, ye travellers, and ſhed
A tear in pity over *Strongbow*, dead;
Nor more for wealth, for pompous titles wiſh,
Since human greatneſs *comes at laſt to this.*
Here now no bell calls Monks to morning prayer,
Daws only chaunt their early matins here;
Black forges ſmoke, and noiſy hammers beat,
Where ſooty Cyclops puffing, drink and ſweat;
Confront the curling flames, nor back retire,
But live, like Salamanders, in the fire;
For at each ſtroke that's by the hammer giv'n,
From the red iron fiery ſparks are driven,
In all directions round the forge they fly,
Like lightning flaſh, and quick as lightning die.
Here ſmelting furnaces like Ætna roar,
And force the latent iron from the ore;
The liquid metal from the furnace runs,
And, caught in moulds of sand, forms pots or guns:

Oft

Oft ſhifts its ſhape, like Proteus, in the fire,
Huge iron bars here dwindle into wire:
Aſſume ſuch forms as ſuit the calls of trade,
Plougſhare or broad-ſword, pruning-hook or ſpade.
To all impreſſions the kind metal yields,
Thimbles for ladies makes, for heroes ſhields.
Theſe fruits of induſtry enrich the place,
Where plenty ſmiles in ev'ry buſy face:
The lazy drones are driven from the hive,
For here the active *only* live and thrive.
Such is the ſtate of ABBEY at this day,
For ſloth, affrighted, fled with monks away.
But with the monks departed not the flame
Of hoſpitality, but glowed the ſame,
While WHITE and JORDEN treated all that came:
Their open houſes travellers ſupply'd
With what the fallen convent now deny'd.
For this, on beds of ſoft Elyſian moſs,
JORDEN and WHITE now reſt with KYRLE of *Roſs*;
With him enjoy the ſweets of endleſs day,----
Receive tenfold the boons they gave away.

HAVING ſelected all that has been writte
upon TINTERN ABBEY, without rendering th
work unpleaſant by unneceſſary repetition, ſom
NOTES, and EXTRACTS from DUGDALE, and th
learned TANNER, Biſhop of St. Aſaph, are all whic
remain to lay before the Reader.

The account of the Ciſtercian Order of Monks
may be intereſting to thoſe who would wiſh to be
made acquainted with their origin, for which
reaſon it is here inſerted; as well as the Hiſtor
of the Monaſteries, from their firſt foundation i
England, till their ſuppreſſion, in the reign o
King Henry the Eighth.

APPENDIX.

STRONGBOW.

RICHARD CLARE, ſurnamed *Strongbow*, the laſt Earl of PEMBROKE and STRIGHUL, of the noble family of the CLARES, was a man of invincible courage (as Cambden called him), and the firſt who made, in the reign of King Henry II. a way for the Engliſh into Ireland, by his perſonal valour. This Earl, while in Ireland, married Eva, daughter of Dermot, king of Leinſter; and having aſſiſted his father-in-law to ſubdue Ororic, king of Meath, and Roderic O'Conner, king of Connaught, who had driven Dermot from his kingdom, *Strongbow*, in right of his wife, after the death of Dermot, is ſaid to have ſucceeded to the kingdom of

Leinſter. If this great and noble Earl died at his caſtle at Strighul, the uſual place of his reſidence, and ſituated only at the diſtance of four miles from TINTERN ABBEY, at that time the moſt ſtately religious edifice in Monmouthſhire, may we not preſume a man of his conſequence was buried there, and that *now old mutilated ſtatue* was placed over his grave.

I do not preſume to vouch this as an undoubted matter of fact, but as a reaſonable conjecture, that has, all circumſtances conſidered, at leaſt, great appearances of probability to ſupport it. But if we add to this, that this abbey was founded in the year 1131, by *Walter Fitz-Richard de Clare*, the father of this *Richard Strongbow*, and that it was augmented with divers lands and privileges by *William* earl of *Pembroke*, who married the daughter and heireſs of *Strongbow*, the place of his interment will no longer appear problematical; for the endowments beſtowed by the ſon-in-law of *Strongbow* on the abbot and monks of this houſe, were with the intention of honouring the place of interment of ſo great a man.

Note, by the Author of the Poem.

Some

Some gentlemen who came to TINTERN, a few years ago, to ſee the ABBEY, being deſirous of ſearching for the vaults of the noble families who are ſaid to lie buried there, ſent their compliments to Mr. TANNER, requeſting his permiſſion to dig in the aiſles, to ſatisfy their curioſity. Mr. TANNER returned for anſwer, that it was not in his power to comply with their requeſt of diging *in* the ABBEY, but if they choſe, they were at liberty to make a ſearch in that part which was the church-yard, adjoining the eaſt end of the building, now an orchard. Labourers were immediately procured, who dug that afternooon and following night, but without meeting with any thing ſatisfactory. The entire ſkeletons of ſeveral human bodies were found, which, from their bones, were judged to be thoſe of men of very large ſtature. No part of a coffin was diſcernible; but large flat ſtones, nearly their whole length, was placed over them.

Tired next morning with their ſearch, they determined to ſpend the day more pleaſant, and dinner was accordingly ordered to be ſerved up in the Abbey. But no ſooner was the cloth removed, and

and the joys of the bottle anticipated, than a fluid and defert neither wiſhed nor expected followed; for a moſt tremendous ſtorm of rain, thunder, and lightning, came on, that made them quit the place with great precipitancy; which was highly gratifying to the the prejudices of the inhabitants of the village, who deemed it a judgment of the Almighty, for diſturbing the aſhes of the dead.

C. HEATH.

Mr. *Richard White* and Mr. *Edward Jorden* were two iron maſters, who ſucceſsfully conducted the iron works, and lived at ABBEY; both well known for their great attention and hoſpitality to all gentlemen whoſe curioſity led them to view the ruins of this old Abbey, and who always departed from hence equally pleaſed with the civilities of the living, as with the venerable appearance of the ruins of a ſtructure, erected by the piety of men long ſince dead.

Note, by the Author of the Poem.

Before

Before the diſſolution of religious houſes in England, the convents entertained all travellers, and ſtill continue to do ſo in all Roman Catholic countries.

Note, by the Author of the Poem.

Returning from PARIS in the year 1790, we added to the number of paſſengers in the *Poſte Royale*, at Aberville, a Cupuchin; who, inſtead of joining the company at the inns where the coach ſtopped, always went to the neareſt convent for refreſhment, and was attended, on his return, by ſome of his Order, to the carriage; which occaſioned a gentleman to remark, that the plan adopted by the Holy Father rendered his journey *pleaſant and not expenſive*. How far the *whole company* would have been welcome, curioſity did not prompt to make the experiment.

C. HEATH.

On a viſit to the Abbey, we were conducted to ſee the habitation of the old woman, which Mr. Gilpin mentions, p. 22.; but however miſerable a picture he draws of the dwelling, it ſtill continues to be occupied, as do many of the cloiſters round the building. The *Pope's chair*, and *Abbot's library*, which

which the poor people requeſt permiſſion to lead you to, is now only a heap of rubbiſh within an orchard, diſcernible through the crevices of an old door.

Parties who viſit this place, ſhould croſs the water, and aſcend the hill, on the oppoſite ſhore, becauſe from a large ſtone, on the brow of it, they obtain a very fine view of the building, the country, and river. Beſides, the countenance of the *Ferryman* is of ſuch *ſingular beauty*, as amply to repay the trouble to the curious traveller.

C. HEATH.

N.B. Since the foundation of this Monaſtery in 1131, to the preſent year 1793, is 662 years.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Cistercian Order of Monks.

IN the year of our Lord 1098, Robert of bleſſed memory, the firſt abbot of the church of Moleſme, in the biſhoprick of Langres, and ſome brethren of the ſame monaſtery, went to the venerable Hugh, then legate apoſtolic and archbiſhop of Lyons, promiſing they would live according to the holy rule of their father St. Benedict; and that they might the more freely perform the ſame, begged he would ſupport them with his aſſiſtance and apoſtolical authority. He complying with their requeſt, granted them his letter, declaring, that whereas they had deſired leave of him, that they might more ſtrictly obſerve the rule of St. Benedict than could be performed in the aforeſaid monaſtery, where the ſame was not kept up to the rigor, he had conſented that they, and all others who

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ſhould think fit to join them, might perform the ſame where they ſhould think fit, and enjoined them to continue in their purpoſe, by the apoſtolical authority to him committed.

Accordingly, Robert the abbot returning to Moleſme, picked out, with thoſe he had before, to the number of 21 monks, and all of them together repaired to the deſert called Ciſteaux, in the dioceſe of Chalon ſur Saone, which being then overgrown with woods and brambles, was wholly unfrequented by men, and the habitation of wild beaſts. There, with the conſent of the biſhop of Chalon, and the owner of the ground, they began to build a monaſtery. Otho, duke of Burgundy, admiring their zeal, finiſhed the timber monaſtery they had begun, ſupplying them with all neceſſaries, and giving them lands for their cattle.

This place was made an abbey by the legate's authority; but the monks of Moleſme making inſtance to pope Urban, that their abbot Robert might return to them, the ſaid pope gave orders to his aforeſaid legate Hugh, to procure the ſame to be done, if it might be, or otherwiſe to take care that the monks in the deſert might remain undisturbed

turbed, and that thoſe of Moleſme ſhould obſerve ſtrict regular diſcipline. Hereupon, Robert the abbot returned to Moleſme, with ſome of the monks, who did not like the deſert, and in his place thoſe who ſtaid behind choſe Albericus, who had been their prior, and ſuffered very much for inducing the brethren to depart from Moleſme. He ſent two of his monks to Rome, who procured a bull from pope Paſchal, exempting them from all temporal and ſpiritual juriſdiction, that they might remain undiſturbed, and ſerve God according to their rule.

Being thus eſtabliſhed, they reduced themſelves to the ſtrict obſervance of the rule of St. Benedict, rejecting all innovations that had crept in, either in eating, lying, or clothing. And foraſmuch as they could not find either in the life or rule of St. Benedict, that their ſaid founder had poſſeſſed any churches, or altars, or oblations, or rights of burial, or tithes, or ovens, or mills, or towns, or peaſants, or that ever any women had entered his monaſtery, or any dead been buried there, except his ſiſter; they therefore renounced all thoſe things, alledging, that where St. Benedict enjoins monks to be ſtrangers to ſecular affairs, he plainly ſhews

they ought not to give place to any ſuch in their hearts. They alſo ſaid, that the tithes had been divided into four parts by the holy fathers, who were the organs of the Holy Ghoſt, and the transgreſſing of whoſe ſtatutes was no leſs than ſacrilege, viz. one part for the biſhop; another for the prieſt; a third for ſtrangers reſorting to the church, or widows, and orphans, or the poor, who had no other maintenance; and the fourth for the repairing of the church. They therefore decreed, that all their affairs without the monaſtery ſhould be managed by lay perſons, becauſe the monks were to be wholly intent upon the ſervice of God. And becauſe they knew, that St. Benedict had not built monaſteries in cities, caſtles, or towns, but in places remote from the concourſe of men, they promiſed to do the ſame. In ſhort, after having been long, as it were, abandoned by the world, inſomuch as to be under great apprehenſions of wanting bread, it pleaſed God ſo to touch the hearts of pious people, that many learned clergymen and laymen of quality reſorted to them, inſomuch that they at one time had 30 novices together; from which time they increaſed and proſpered, zealouſly fulfillin

filling and obſerving the ſtrict rules of their order, and wonderfully edifying the church.

This order being afterwards much relaxed, thro' the authority and ill management of the abbots of Ciſteaux, the abbot of Clairveaux obtained power of the ſee of Rome to reform the ſame, which was accordingly performed, as appears by the account of the whole proceeding, ſent by the abbot of Savignac to the monaſteries of the order in England, dated 1264.

THE DRESS
OF THE
CISTERCIAN ORDER OF MONKS.

A white caſſock, with a narrow ſcapulary, and over that a *black* gown, when they went abroad; but a *white* one, when they went to church.

N. B. They were also called WHITE MONKS, *from the colour of their habit.*

HISTORY OF THE

MONASTERIES in ENGLAND,

FROM THEIR FIRST ESTABLISHMENT,

TILL THEIR DISSOLUTION,

IN THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII. 1536, 37.

THE origin of Monks in England may be dated from the firſt plantation of Chriſtianity therein, if we may give any credit to a very learned gentleman, who tells us, "That it is probable that ſome of the Druids having been "converted from the Pagan religion, whereof they were "the Prieſts, became our firſt Monks; being thereunto "much inclined, by the ſeverity of their former diſci-"pline." See Sir George M'Kenzie in his defence of the royal line of Scotland, p. 13.

Upon the converſion of the PAGAN SAXONS, who then domineered over the largeſt province of Britain, ſince called England, monaſteries where founded in all parts where chriſtianity had any footing. Thus St. Auguſtin and

nd his followers erected monaſteries in Kent, and the Scot-ſh biſhops and monks propagated the chriſtian faith, after e ſame way, among the Northumbrians.

At the CONQUEST, monaſteries had a deep ſhare in the fflictions of the conquered nation. Some of the beſt of eir manors was ſacrilegiouſly taken away, their treaſuries ere rifled, and their liberties infringed, by the inſulting ormans. However, that ſame conqueror built and endow-d the monaſteries of Battel in Suſſex, Selby in Yorkſhire, itchinbroke in Huntingdonſhire, Frampton in Dorſetſhire, aunsfeld in Eſſex, Dereherſt in Gloceſterſhire, Andover n Hampſhire, and Steyning in Suſſex.

King WILLIAM RUFUS ſucceeded next; heir to the vices, ot the virtues of his father. He miſerably oppreſſed the eligious, ſeized upon the revenues of the vacant abbies nd biſhoprics, and would never let them be filled without me ſimonical bargain.

He built only the ſmall priories of Armethwait in Cum-erland, and St. Nicholas in Exeter.

King HENRY I. is recorded to have been a very pious nd good prince, an encourager of learning and piety, nd one that had a great eſteem for the church and all re-gious perſons. His founding nine or ten monaſteries onfirms the truth of this character, and above 100 were ounded in his time. King STEPHEN was virtuous, religious, nd liberal, and after the wars between him and MAUD the mpreſs were ended, a great builder of religious houſes.

The

The troubles the kingdom was, for a great part of his reign embroiled in, could not reſtrain the piety and charity of the Engliſh from building religious houſes to the number of 86 one college, two preceptories, and three alien priories. King HENRY II. was very obliging to the clergy, eſpecially after the murder of St. THOMAS BECKET of Canterbury. He founded the firſt houſe of the Carthuſians in England, viz. Witham in Somerſetſhire, and ſeven others; and in his time were founded 70 monaſteries, three collegiate churches, ſix preceptories and alien priories, and almoſt twenty Ciſtercian abbeys. In the time of king RICHARD I. the money deſigned for pious uſes being expended in the wars againſt the Saracens, and for the ranſom of that king, there were but 18 monaſteries built, and not one by the king. King JOHN, tho' prejudiced againſt the eccleſiaſtics, yet he founded one abbey, one nunnery, and one alien priory, and in his time there were built 35 monaſteries, and one preceptory. In king HENRY III.'s long reign, 32 monaſteries, but the king himſelf founded only one cell of Gilbertines.

King EDWARD I. built the ſtately abbey of Vale-Royal in Cheſhire, and in his time were founded only nine monaſteries, one preceptory, and nine colleges; for in his reign the ſtatute of *Mortmain* paſſed, by which it was not allowed to any religious perſon to enter upon any fees either to buy them, or to receive them as the gift of others without licence of the chief lords, upon pain of forfeiture. Under king EDWARD II. the knights templers were ſuppreſſed

preſſed, and only four monaſteries founded. Under king EDWARD III. 10 monaſteries, and 17 colleges; and he himſelf founded one nunnery, and the colleges of St. George at Windſor, and St. Stephen at Weſtminſter. In the reign of king RICHARD II. only two or three monaſteries of Carthuſians were built, and 10 or 11 colleges.

King HENRY IV. built the college of Battlefield in Shropſhire, and only two or three colleges and one Carthuſian monaſtery were built in his time. In the reign of king HENRY V. ſix colleges and three monaſteries; theſe by the king himſelf. Under king HENRY VI. ſix colleges, beſides Eaton by himſelf.

The wars between the houſes of Lancaſter and York enſuing, the foundations were few, and ſo in the reigns of king RICHARD III. and king HENRY VII.

In the 27th year of the reign of king HENRY VIII. all the leſſer monaſteries, not having the value of 200*l.* per annum, of which there were above 370, were diſſolved, and all their lands, rents, houſes, &c. with their ſtock of cattle, corn, &c. given to the king. In the 31ſt year of his reign, all the great abbeys, to the number of 645, had the ſame fate; and the 37th year, 90 colleges, 110 hoſpitals, and 2374 chantries and free chapels were granted, to ſupply the kings neceſſities; beſides the houſes, lands, and goods, of the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem, which were ſuppreſſed 32 HENRY VIII.

The Account Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE *has given us of the method used in the* DISSOLUTION *of* MONASTERIES, *is here subjoined extracted from his celebrated "History of Warwickshire."*

"I find it left recorded by the commiſſioners that were employed to take ſurrender of the monaſteries in this Shire anno 29 Henry VIII. That, after ſtrict ſcrutiny, not only by the fame of the country, but by the examination of ſeveral perſons, they found the nuns of Polesworth virtuous and religious women, and of good converſation. Nevertheleſs, it was not the ſtrict and regular lives of theſe devout ladies, nor any thing that could be ſaid in behalf of the monaſteries, that could prevent their ruin then approaching, ſo great an aim had the king to make himſelf thereby glorious, and many others no leſs hopes to be enriched in a conſiderable manner. But to the end that ſuch a change ſhould not overwhelm thoſe that might be active therein, in regard the people every where had no ſmall eſteem for theſe houſes, for their devout and daily exerciſes in prayer, alms-deeds, hoſpitality, and the like, whereby not only the ſouls of their deceaſed anceſtors had much benefit, (as was then thought), but themſelves, the poor, as alſo ſtrangers and pilgrims, conſtant advantage; there wanted not the moſt ſubtil contrivances to effect this ſtupendous work, that (I think) any age beheld; where of it will not be thought impertinent, I preſume, to take here a ſhort view.

"I

" In order to effect their purpoſes, the plan adopted by cardinal Wolſey, for founding his colleges in Oxford and Ipſwich, was made a precedent, viz. the diſſolving above go religious houſes, moſt very ſmall ones, by the licenſe of the king and pope Clement VII. And that it might be the better carried on, Mr. Thomas Cromwel, who had been an old ſervant to the cardinal, and not a little active in that, was the chief perſon pitched upon to aſſiſt therein. For I look upon this buſineſs as not originally deſigned by the king, but by ſome principal ambitious men of that age, who projected to themſelves all worldly advantages imaginable, thro' that deluge of wealth which was like to flow amonſt them by this hideous ſtorm.

" Firſt, therefore, having inſinuated to the king matter of profit and honor, viz. profit by ſo vaſt an enlargement of his revenue, and honor in being able to maintain mighty armies to recover his right in France, as alſo to ſtrengthen himſelf againſt the pope, whoſe ſupremacy he himſelf aboliſhed, and make the firmer alliance with ſuch princes as had done the like, did they procure Cranmer's advancement to the ſee of Canterbury, and more of the proteſtant clergy (as my authority terms them) to other biſhoprics, and high places, to the end that the reſt ſhould not be able, in a full council, to carry any thing againſt their deſign; ſending out preachers alſo to perſuade the people, that they ſhould ſtand faſt to the king, without fear of the pope's curſe, or his diſſolving their allegiance.

" Next,

"Next, that it might be the more plauſibly carried on, care was taken ſo to repreſent the lives of the monks, nuns, canons, &c. to the world, as that the leſs regret might be at their ruin. To which purpoſe, T. Cromwel being conſtituted General Viſitor, employed ſundry perſons who acted therein their parts accordingly, viz. Rich. Layton, Thomas Legh, and William Petre, doctors of law, Dr. John London, dean of Wallingford, and others; by which they were to enquire into the government and behaviour of the religious of both ſexes; which commiſſioners, the better to manage their deſign, gave encouragement to the monks not only to accuſe their governors, but to inform againſt each other; compelling them alſo to produce the charters and evidences of their lands, as alſo their plate and money, and to give an inventory thereof. And hereunto did they add certain injunctions from the king, containing moſt ſevere and ſtrict rules; by means whereof, divers being found obnoxious to their cenſure, were expelled; and many diſcerning themſelves not able to live free from ſome exception or advantage, that might be taken againſt them, deſired to leave their habit.

"Having by theſe viſitors thus ſearched into their lives, which, by a black book, containing a world of enormities, were repreſented in no ſmall meaſure ſcandalous, to the end that the people might be better ſatisfied with their proceedings, it was thought convenient to ſuggeſt, that the leſſer houſes, for want of good government, were chiefly guilty of theſe crimes that were laid to their charge; and ſo they did

did, as appears by the preamble of that act for their diſſolution, made in 27 Henry VIII. which parliament, conſiſting of the moſt part of ſuch members as were packed for the purpoſe, through private intereſt, as is evident by divers original letters of that time; many of the nobility, for the like reſpects alſo, favouring the deſign, aſſenting to the ſuppreſſing of all ſuch houſes as had been certified of leſs value than 200*l.* per annum, and giving them, with their lands and revenues to the king; yet ſo as not only the religious perſons therein ſhould be committed to the great and honourable monaſteries of this realm, where they might be compelled to live religiouſly for reformation of their lives; wherein, thanks be to God, religion is well kept and obſerved, (as are the very words of that act); but that the poſeſſions belonging to ſuch houſes ſhould be converted to better uſes, to the pleaſure of Almighty God, and the honour and profit of the realm.

" But how well the tenor thereof was purſued, we ſhall ſoon ſee; theſe ſpecious pretences being made uſe of for on other purpoſe than by opening this gap, to make way for the total ruin of the greater houſes, wherein it is by the ſaid act acknowledged, that religion was ſo well obſerved. For no ſooner were the monks, &c. turned out, and the houſes demoliſhed, (that being it which was firſt thought requiſite, leſt ſome accidental change might conduce to their reſtitution), but care was taken to prefer ſuch perſons to the ſuperiority in government, upon any vacancy of thoſe greater houſes, as might be inſtrumental to

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their ſurrender, by perſuading with the convent to that purpoſe; whoſe activeneſs was ſuch, that within the ſpace of two years, ſeveral convents were wrought upon, and commiſſioners ſent down to take them at their hands for the king's uſe; of which number I find, that beſides the before ſpecified doctors of law, there were 34 commiſſioners.

"The truth is, that there was no omiſſion of any endeavours to accompliſh theſe ſurrenders; for ſo ſubtilly did the commiſſioners act their parts, as that after earneſt ſolicitations with the abbats, and finding them backward, they firſt tempted them with promiſes of good penſions during life; whereby they found ſome forward enough to promote the work, as the abbat of Hales in Gloceſterſhire was, who had high commendation for it by the commiſſioners, as their letters to the viſitor general do manifeſt. So likewiſe had the abbat of Ramſey, and the prior of Ely. Nay, ſome were ſo obſequious, that after they had wrought the ſurrender of their own houſes, they were employed as commiſſioners to perſuade with others, as the prior of Gisborn in Yorkſhire for one. Neither were the courtiers unactive in driving on this work, as may be ſeen by the lord chancellor Audley's employing a ſpecial agent to treat with the abbat of Athelney, and to offer him 100 marks per annum penſion, in caſe he would ſurrender, which the abbat refuſed, inſiſting upon a greater ſum; and the perſonal endeavours that he uſed with the abbat of St. Oſithe in Eſſex, as by his letter to the ſaid viſitor, wherein it is ſignified, that he had, by great ſolicitation, prevailed with

with the ſaid abbat; but withal inſinuating his deſire, that his place of lord chancellor being very chargeable, the king might be moved for an addition of ſome more profitable offices unto him. Nay, I find, that this great man, the lord chancellor, hunting eagerly after the abbey of Walden in Eſſex (out of the ruins whereof afterwards that magnificent fabric, called Audley-Inn, was built), as an argument to obtain it, did, beſides the extenuation of its worth, alledge, that he had in this world ſuſtained great damage and infamy in his ſerving the king, which the grant of that ſhould recompence.

" Amongſt the particular arguments uſed by thoſe averſe to ſurrender, I find that the abbat of Feverſham alledged, The antiquity of their monaſtery's foundation, viz. by king Stephen, whoſe body, with the bodies of the queen and prince, lay there interred, and for whom were uſed continual ſuffrages and commendations by prayers; yet it would not avail; for reſolved they were to effect what they had begun, by one means or other; inſomuch as they procured the biſhop of London to come to the nuns of Sion, with their confeſſor, to ſolicit them thereunto; who, after many perſuaſions, took it upon their conſciences, that they ought to ſubmit unto the king's pleaſure therein by God's law. But what could not be effected by ſuch arguments and fair promiſes, which were not wanting nor unfulfilled, as appears by the large penſions that ſome active monks and canons had, in compariſon of others, even to a fifth and ſixth-fold proportion more than ordinary, was by ter-

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ror and ſtreight dealing brought to paſs; for under pretence of ſuffering dilapidation in the buildings, or negligent adminiſtration of their offices, as alſo for breaking the king's injunctions, they deprived ſome abbats, and then put others that were more pliant in their room.

"From others they took their convent ſeals, to the end they might not, by making leaſes, nor ſale of their jewels, raiſe money, either for ſupply of their preſent wants, or payment of their debts, and ſo be neceſſitated to ſurrender. Nay, to ſome, as to the canons of Leiceſter, the commiſſioners threatened to charge them with adultery and other crimes, unleſs they would ſubmit. And doctor London told the nuns of Godſtow, that becauſe he found them obſtinate, he would diſſolve the houſe, by virtue of the king's commiſſion, in ſpite of their teeth. And yet all was ſo managed, that the king was ſolicited to accept of them, not being willing to have it thought they were by terror moved thereunto, and ſpecial notice was taken of them as gave out that their ſurrender was by compulſion.

"Which courſes, after ſo many, thro' under-hand corruption, that led the way, brought on others apace, as appears by their dates, which I have obſerved from the very inſtruments themſelves; inſomuch that the reſt ſtood amazed, not knowing which way to turn them. Some therefore thought fit to try whether money might ſave their houſes from this diſmal fate, ſo near at hand; the abbat of Peterborough offering 2500 marks to the king, and 300l. to the viſito

viſitor general therein. Others with great conſtancy refuſed to be thus acceſſary in violating the donations of their pious founders; but theſe, as they were not many, ſo did they taſte of no little ſeverity; for touching the abbat of Fountaines in Yorkſhire, I find, that being charged by the commiſſioners for taking into his private hands ſome jewels belonging to that monaſtery, which they called theft and ſacrilege, they pronounced him perjured, and ſo depoſing him, extorted a private reſignation. And it appears, that the monks of the Charter-Houſe, in the ſuburbs of London, were committed to Newgate, where, with hard and barbarous uſage, five of them died, and five more lay at the point of death, as the commiſſioners ſignified; but withal alledged, that the ſuppreſſion of that houſe, being of ſo ſtrict a rule, would occaſion great ſcandal to their doings; foraſmuch as it ſtood in the face of the world, infinite concourſe from all parts coming to that populous city, and therefore deſired it might be altered to ſome other uſe. And laſtly, under the like pretence of robbing the church, wherewith the aforeſaid abbat of Fountaines was charged,—the abbat of Glaſtonbury, with two of his monks, being condemned to death, was drawn from Wells upon a hurdle, then hanged upon the hill called the TOR, near Glaſtonbury, his head ſet upon the abbey gate, and his quarters diſpoſed of to Wells, Bath, Ilcheſter, and Bridgewater. Nor did the abbats of Colcheſter and Reading fare much better, as they that conſult the ſtory of that time will find. And for further terror to the reſt, ſome priors, and

other eccleſiaſtics, who had ſpoken againſt the king's ſupremacy, were condemned as traitors, and put to death.

"All this being effected, but that it might not be thought it was done with a high hand—the king having proteſted 'that he would ſuppreſs none without conſent of parliament,'—a parliament was called April 28, 1539, to confirm theſe ſurrenders ſo made, as hath been ſaid; and there wanted not plauſible inſinuations to both houſes for drawing on their conſent with all ſmoothneſs; the nobility being promiſed large ſhares in the ſpoil, either by free gift from the king, eaſy purchaſes, or moſt advantageous exchanges; and many of the active gentry, advancements to honour, with increaſe of their eſtates—all which was accordingly done. And the better to ſatisfy the vulgar, it was repreſented to them, that by this deluge of wealth the kingdom ſhould be ſtrengthened with an army of 40,000 men; and that for the future they ſhould never be charged with ſubſidies, fifteenths, loans, or common aids. By which means, the parliament ratifying the before ſpecified ſurrender, the work became completed; for the more firm ſettling of which, a ſudden courſe was taken to pull down and deſtroy the buildings, as they had done before, at the diſſolution of the ſmaller houſes. Next, to diſpenſe a great proportion of their lands among the nobility and gentry as had been projected, which was accordingly done;—the viſitor general having told the king, 'that the more had intereſt in them, the more they would be irrecoverable.'

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"And leſt any domeſtic ſtirs, by reaſon of this great and ſtrange alteration, ſhould ariſe, rumours were ſpread abroad that cardinal Pool laboured, with divers princes, to procure forces againſt this realm, and that an invaſion was threatened; which ſeemed the more credible, becauſe the truce concluded betwixt the emperor and the French king was generally known, and neither of them wanted a pretence to bring them over. And this was alſo ſeconded by a ſudden journey of the king unto the ſea-coaſts; unto divers parts whereof he had ſent ſundry nobles and expert perſons to viſit the ports and places of danger, who failed not, for their diſcharge upon all events, to affirm the peril in each place to be ſo great, as one would have thought every place had needed a fortification. Beſides, he forthwith cauſed his navy to be in readineſs, and muſters to be taken over all the kingdom. All which preparations being made againſt a danger believed imminent, ſeemed ſo to excuſe the ſuppreſſion of the abbies, as that the people, willing to ſave their own purſes, began to ſuffer it eaſily, especially when they ſaw orders given for building the forts.

"But let us look a little upon the ſucceſs; wherein I find, that the ſaid viſitor general, the grand actor in this tragical buſineſs, having contracted upon himſelf ſuch an odium from the nobility, by reaſon of his low birth, tho' not long before made knight of the garter, earl of Eſſex, and lord high chancellor of England, as alſo from the catholics, for having thus operated in the diſſolution of abbies, that before the end of the before ſpecified parliament, wherein that was

ratified, which he had with ſo much induſtry brought to paſs, the king not having any more uſe for him, gave way to the accuſations of his enemies. Whereupon, being arreſted by the duke of Norfolk at the council table, when he leaſt expected it, and committed to the Tower, he was condemned by the ſame parliament, for hereſy and treaſon, unheard and little pitied; and on the 28th of July (four days after the parliament was diſſolved), had his head cut off on Tower-hill.*

"And as for the fruit which the people reaped, after all their hopes built upon thoſe ſpecious pretences which I have inſtanced, it was very little: for it is plain that ſubſidies from the clergy, and fifteenths of laymen's goods, were ſoon after exacted; and that in Edward VI.'s time, the Commons were conſtrained to ſupply the king's wants by a new invention, viz. ſheep, cloths, goods, debts, &c. for three years; which tax grew ſo heavy, that the year following they prayed the king for mitigation thereof. Nor is it a little obſervable, that, whilſt the monaſteries ſtood, there was no act for the relief of the poor; ſo amply did thoſe houſes give ſuccour to them that were in want; whereas in the next age (viz. 39 Elizabeth), no leſs than eleven bills were were brought into the houſe of commons for that purpoſe."

* So may "deſerts like his always be crowned." A fine example to thoſe who ſeek to obtain the notice of the Great by wicked and unjuſt methods.

NAMES

NAMES of the OFFICERS
BELONGING TO THE MONASTERIES,
WITH THE NATURE OF THE EMPLOYMENT ANNEXED TO EACH DEPARTMENT.

IN every abbey the chief officer was the abbat or abbeſs, who preſided in great pomp, was generally called Lord abbat, or Lady abbeſs, and had a kitchen and other offices diſtinct from the common ones of the ſociety.

In every priory the chief officer was the prior or prioreſs, who had the ſame power in priories as abbats and abbeſses had in abbies, but lived in a leſs ſplendid and expenſive manner, tho' in ſome of the greater houſes they were called Lord prior, and Lady prioreſs.

Next under the abbat, in every abbey, was the prior, who in the abbat's abſence had the chief care of the houſe, and under him was the ſub-prior, and in great abbies, the third, fourth, and even fifth

fifth prior, who had their reſpective ſhares in the government of the monks, etc. and were removable at the will of the abbat, as all the other obedientarii or officers were. In every priory, next under the prior, was the ſub-prior, who aſſiſted the prior whilſt preſent, and acted in his ſtead when abſent.

The ſix greater officers in the monaſtery of Croyland (and perhaps in moſt others), were,

1. *Magiſter operis*, or maſter of the fabrick, who probably looked after the buildings, and took care to keep them in good repair.

2. *Eleemoſynarius*, or the almoner, who had the overſight of the alms of the houſe, (which were every day diſtributed at the gate to the poor) who divided the alms upon the founder's day, and at other obits and anniverſaries, and in ſome places provided for the maintenance and education of the choriſters.

3. *Pitantiarius*, who had the care of the pietancies, which were allowancies upon particular occaſions over and above the common proviſions.

4. *Sacriſta*, or the ſexton, who took care of the veſſels, books, and veſtments belonging to the church, looked after and accounted for the oblations

tions at the great altar, and other altars and images in the church, and ſuch legacies as were given either to the fabric or utenſils; he likewiſe provided bread and wine for the ſacrament, and took care of burying the dead.

5. *Camerarius*, or the chamberlain, who had the chief care of the dormitory, and provided beds and bedding for the monks, razors and towels for ſhaving them, and part of, if not all, their cloathing.

6. *Cellerarius*, or the cellarer, who was to procure proviſions for the monks, and all ſtrangers reſorting to the convent, viz. all ſorts of fleſh, fiſh, fowl, wine, bread corn, malt for their ale and beer, oatmeal, ſalt, etc. as likewiſe wood for firing, and all utenſils for the kitchen.

Beſides theſe, there were alſo,

Thesaurarius, or the burſar, who received all the common rents and revenues of the monaſtery, and paid all the common expences.

Precentor, or the chaunter, who had the chief care of the choir ſervice, and not only preſided over the ſinging men, organiſt, and choriſters, but provided books for them, paid them their ſalaries, and repaired the organs; he had alſo the cuſtody of

of the ſeal, and kept the Liber diurnalis, or Chapter book, and provided parchment and ink for the writers, and colours for the limners of books for the library.

Hostilarius, or Hoſpitilarius, whoſe buſineſs it was to ſee ſtrangers well entertained, and to provide firing, napkins, towels, and ſuch like neceſſaries, for them.

Infirmarius, who had the care of the infirmary, and of the ſick monks who were carried thither, and was to provide them phyſic and all other neceſsaries whilst living, and to waſh and prepare their bodies for burial when dead.

Refectionarius, who looked after the hall, provided table cloths, napkins, towels, diſhes, plates, ſpoons, and all other neceſſaries for it, even ſervants to wait and tend there; he had likewiſe the keeping of the cups, ſalts, ewers, and all the ſilver utenſils whatſoever belonging to the houſe, except the church plate.

FURTHER

FURTHER INTERESTING PARTICULARS

RESPECTING THE

RELIGIOUS HOUSES.

IN every great abbey there was a large room, called the Scriptorium, where ſeveral writers made it their whole buſineſs to tranſcribe books for the uſe of the library. They ſometimes indeed wrote the leiger books of the houſe, and the miſſals and other books uſed in divine ſervice; but they generally were upon other works, viz. the Fathers, Claſſics, Histories, &c. John Wethamſted, abbat of St. Alban's, cauſed above eighty books to be thus tranſcribed during his abbacy. Fifty-eight were tranſcribed by the care of one abbat at Glaſtonbury; and ſo zealous were the monks in general for this work, that they often got lands given, and churches appropriated, for the carrying of it on.

In all the greater abbies, there were alſo perſons appointed to take notice of the principal occurrences of the kingdom, and at the end of every year to digeſt them into annals. In theſe records they particulary preſerved the memories of their founders and benefactors, the years and days of their births and deaths, their marriages, children, and ſucceſſors; ſo that recourse was ſometimes had to them for proving perſons ages, and genealogies; tho' 'tis to be feared that ſome of thoſe pedigrees were drawn up from tradition only; and that in moſt of their accounts they were favourable to their friends, and ſevere upon their enemies. The conſtitutions of the clergy in their national and provincial ſynods, and (after the Conqueſt) even acts of parliament, were ſent to the abbies to be recorded; which leads us to mention the uſe and advantage of theſe religious houſes.

For, firſt, the choiceſt records and treaſures in the kingdom were preſerved in them. An exemplification of the charter of liberties granted by king Henry I. was ſent to ſome abbey in every county to be preſerved. Charters and inquiſitions relating to the county of Cornwal, were repoſited in the priory of Bodmin; a great many rolls were lodged

lodged in the abbey of Leiceſter and priory of Kenilworth, till taken from thence by king Henry III. King Edward I. ſent to the religious houſes, to ſearch for his title to the kingdom of Scotland, in their leigers and chronicles, as the moſt authentic records, for proof of his right to that crown.

When his ſovereignty was acknowledged in Scotland, he ſent letters to have it inſerted in the chronicles of the abbey of Winchcomb, and the priory of Norwich, and probably of many other ſuch like places. And when he decided the controverſy relating to the crown of Scotland, between Robert Brus and John Baliol, he wrote to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, London, requiring them to enter into their chronicles the exemplification therewith ſent of that deciſion.

The learned Mr. Selden hath his greateſt evidences for the dominion of the narrow ſeas belonging to the king of Great Britain, from monaſtic records.

The evidences and money of private families were oftentimes ſent to theſe houſes to be preſerved. The ſeals of noblemen were depoſited there upon their deaths: And even the king's money was ſometimes lodged in them.

Secondly, They were ſchools of learning and education; for every convent had one perſon or more appointed for this purpoſe; and all the neighbours, that deſired it, might have their children taught grammar and church muſic, without any expence to them. In the nunneries young women were taught to work, and to read Engliſh, and ſometimes Latin alſo. So that not only the lower rank of people, who could not pay for their learning, but moſt of the noblemen's and gentlemen's daughters, were educated in thoſe places.

Thirdly, All the monaſteries were in effect great hoſpitals, and moſt of them were obliged to relieve many poor people every day. They were likewiſe houſes of entertainment for almoſt all travellers. Even the nobility and gentry, when they were upon the road, lodged at one religious house and dined at another, and ſeldom or never went to inns. In ſhort, their hospitality was ſuch, that in the priory of Norwich, one thouſand five hundred quarters of malt, and above eight hundred quarters of wheat, and all other things in proportion, were generally ſpent every year.

Fourthly, The nobility and gentry provided not only for their old ſervants in theſe houſes, by corrodies,

rodies, but for their younger children and impoveriſhed friends, by making them firſt monks and nuns, and in time priors and prioreſſes, abbats and abbeſſes.

Fifthly, They were of conſiderable advantage to the crown. 1. By the profits received by the death of one abbat or prior, to the election, or rather confirmation, of another. 2. By great fines paid for the ccnfirmation of their liberties. 3. By many corrodies granted to old ſervants of the crown, and penſions to the king's clerks and chaplains, till they got preferment.

Sixthly, They were likewiſe of conſiderable advantage to the places where they had their ſites and eſtates: 1. By cauſing great reſort to them, and getting grants of fairs and markets for them. 2. By freeing them from the foreſt laws. 3. By letting their lands at eaſy rates.

Laſtly, They were great ornaments to the country; many of them were really noble buildings; and tho' not actually ſo grand and neat, yet perhaps as much admired in their times, as Chelſea and Greenwich hoſpitals are now. Many of the abbey churches were equal, if not ſuperior, to our preſent cathedrals; and they muſt have been as much

much an ornament to the country, and employed as many workmen in building and keeping them in repair, as noblemen's and gentemen's ſeats do at this preſent day.

It is likewiſe obſervable, That when PRINTING was firſt brought into England, the monks were *great promoters of that noble invention.* William Caxton firſt practiſed the ſame in the abbey at Weſtminſter; and afterwards it was likewiſe practiſed in the abbies of St. Auſtin, at Canterbury, at St. Albans, and other monaſteries in England.

The OBJECTIONS *made against the Religious Houſes, and their Orders.*

Theſe Regulars were very injurious to the Secular and Parochial clergy: 1. By taking many prebends and benefices. The abbats of Athelney, Michelney, and Becc Harlowin, had prebends in the cathedral church of Wells annexed to their abbatſhips. And in the metropolitical church of York, the prebend of Salton was annexed to the priory of Hexham, and the prebend of Bramham to the priory of Noſtel. And ſo many other priors, and monks of

of all ſorts, and even friers, got diſpenſations to hold prebends and livings; that at, or juſt before the Reformation, biſhop Burnet ſaith, "They were every where poſſeſt of the beſt church benefices." 2. By getting ſo many churches impropriated to them, and getting penſions out of many others. 3. By the many exemptions they got from the jurisdiction of the biſhops, and from paying tithes.

Theſe houſes of monks and friers ſeem to have been injurious to the nation in general: 1. By depriving the public of ſo many hands as might have been very ſerviceable to it in proper employments. 2. By an unfair and ungenerous way of trading. 3. By their houſes or churches being ſanctuaries for all manner of offenders.

By the ancient laws of this realm, it was lawful for the donors of lands to religious and charitable uſes, or their heirs, to reſume the lands, if the rents and profiits of them were not applied to the ends and uſes they were given for.

The monks many times ſold the lands and poſſeſſions which their founders and benefactors had charitably given them; and the laws which forbad it in general, allowed it in particular caſes. They likewise ſometimes gave away their lands to their relations.

The privilege of ſanctuary in monaſteries was often complained of in parliament, as protecting the moſt notorious offenders from juſtice, and encouraging all manner of villany. From the attempts made againſt them in the reigns

reigns of king Henry IV. and king Henry V. it is evident, that the revenues of theſe houſes had been long envied, and thought too great. And perhaps that ſmall part of the alien priories, which had been given to the laity, might make them long for more.

At the Diſſolution of the Religious Houses,

Some ſay, that nearly ten thouſand perſons were ſent to ſeek their fortunes in the wide world, without any other allowance than forty ſhillings and a new gown to ſome few of them. Others ſay, that ſuch of the Religious as deſired to continue their profeſſion, were allowed to go into the greater monaſteries; and ſuch as choſe to go into the world, being prieſts, had every one the above mentioned allowance; and that ſome of them, for their readineſs to ſurrender, got ſmall penſions for life.

CORRODIES

Being frequently mentioned in this work, it may be neceſſary for the information of the reader, to ſay, they were ſet allowances of meat, drink, and clothing, which the heirs of the founders had a right to, for ſo many of their ſervants.

FINIS.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM